



# NOAA FISHERIES

## **USAID-Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)**

### **Implementing Organization:**

Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island

### **Web site:**

[http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects\\_page/sfmp/](http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects_page/sfmp/)

### **Priorities identified by the project:**

The goal of this five-year project (October 2014-October 2019) is to rebuild marine fisheries stocks and catches through adoption of responsible fishing practices. Increased yields and catch will lead to greater, sustained household income and food availability. Ghana's priority needs are for:

- (1) improved legal enabling conditions for implementing co-management, use rights, capacity and effort-reduction strategies;
- (2) improved information systems and science-informed decision-making;
- (3) increased constituencies that provide the political will and public support necessary to make the hard choices and changed behavior needed to rebuild Ghana's marine fisheries sector; and these components feed into
- (4) applied management initiatives for several targeted fisheries ecosystems.

### **Objectives of the project:**

The specific objectives of the USAID-Ghana SFMP include:

- Recoup tens of thousands of metric tons of food protein supply lost due to severe overfishing and poor management
- A rebound of key stocks, benefiting over 130,000 fishermen, 18,000 fish mongers.
- Significant declines in IUU fishing due to an increase in arrests and successful prosecutions
- Improved voluntary compliance and active support of polices and rules by stakeholders.
- Information and communications technology (ICT) for mobile apps for fisheries management
- Inclusive participation by under-represented groups, women and youth in decision-making
- 13,000 people (the majority being women) benefiting from diversified livelihoods, access to micro-credit, adoption of more efficient and profitable fish smokers and fish product value-added



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- Climate-resilient fishing communities and strengthened capacity of District Assemblies to promote and support resilient community policies and initiatives
- A decline in child labor and trafficking in fisheries in the Central Region

## **Overview of the project:**

The problem in Ghana's Marine fisheries sector is complex, tragic, and all too-common—severely overexploited fisheries put at risk tens of thousands of metric tons of fish in the local food fish supply and threaten the livelihoods of over 130,000 people and many more fisheries-dependent households. The SFMP supports the Government of Ghana's (GOG) fisheries development policies and objectives and aims to assist the country to end overfishing and rebuild targeted fish stocks. Adoption of sustainable fishing practices to end overfishing is the only way Ghana can maintain or, ideally, increase its wild-caught local marine food supply. Sustainable fishing will bring greater profitability to the fishery, with the potential to indirectly benefit two million people.

## **Relationship to security issues:**

The small pelagic stocks, which are most important to food security and employment, are near collapse. The SFMP works with the Fisheries Enforcement Unit and the Ghana Marine Police to strengthen the prosecutorial chain for violations of the fisheries law including better coordination from apprehension through to prosecution and sanctions. A competency-based approach is being taken to improve the capacity of Ghana's Marine Police force. Improvement in fisheries enforcement and the prosecutorial chain to counter IUU fishing is a project indicator ("increase/decrease in prosecutions and percent that lead to conviction"). SFMP encourages the Regional Training Center in Accra, established under the Department of State/International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau (INL) and supporting the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative (WACSI), to develop training sessions on all components of IUU fishing as the practice may have strong links to transnational criminal syndicates. The project also briefs the Ghana Mission Maritime Security Group at the U.S. Embassy.

## **Relationship to governance issues:**

Ghana's 'open access' fishery results in extreme overcapitalization of fleets which in one driver of fishery collapse. This is exacerbated by poor governance, weak enforcement of rules and a subsidy on the price of pre-mix fuel for boat engines. The project's primary goal is to assist GOG end overfishing and rebuild targeted fish stocks by supporting the government's fisheries development policies. This includes support to: i) the Fisheries Enforcement Unit in the creation of a "Citizens Watch on Water" program; ii) the



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Fisheries Commission to improve the mobility of law enforcement agents along the coast, including vehicles; iii) the construction of an outpost at Elmina port; and iv) a strong grassroots behavior change communications campaign against IUU fishing.

## **Status of the project – timeline:**

The USAID/SFMP began October 2014 and will run for five years, through September 2019. Presently (April 2016) it is at the mid-point of project Year 2.

## **Designated main contact and contact information:**

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## **Historical context for the project:**

The USAID/SFMP design builds on the gains and lessons learned under the previous USAID/Ghana Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Project (ICFG) initiative, led by CRC from 2009 to 2014. For instance, SFMP scales-up ICFG's successful model for improving law enforcement effectiveness. More information on the ICFG project can be found here: [http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects\\_page/the-integrated-coastal-and-fisheries-governance-icfg-initiative-for-the-western-region-of-ghana/](http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects_page/the-integrated-coastal-and-fisheries-governance-icfg-initiative-for-the-western-region-of-ghana/)

## **What kind of partnership do you have with Ghana? (partners/collaborators, funders, implementers, etc.):**



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**Who is your main Ghana partner(s)? (government, agency, local NGO, university etc.):**

The USAID/SFMP supports the missions of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD), Fisheries Commission, the West African Regional Fisheries Project, the Central and Western Region Coordinating Councils, and the University of Cape Coast.

It is implemented by several Ghanaian NGOs including the Daasgift Quality Foundation, Friends of the Nation, Hen Mpoano, the Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association, and the Development Action Association.

For questions about our international development efforts in Africa, please contact NOAA Fisheries / Oriana Villar ([oriana.villar@noaa.gov](mailto:oriana.villar@noaa.gov)).